

Navajo Division of Social Services

Yideesk'áądi Nitsáhákees Niha' áłchíní bá

One Voice, One Vision, One Team

2023 Winter Symposium

December 18 – 20, 2023



**High Country Conference Center
Flagstaff, Arizona**

The Navajo Division of Social Services thanks the following Sponsors



Arizona Public Service



Eaglesun Systems, Inc.



Casey Family Programs



Utah Navajo Health Services, Inc.

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Letter from Executive Director

Navajo Division of Social Services – Office of Executive Director Staff

Thomas Cody, Executive Director

Marlinda Littleman, Deputy Division Director

Brenda Tsosie, Principal Accountant

Delilah Goodluck, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist

Mary Descheeny-Reyna, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist

Calvert Curley, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist

Chelmarie Jones, Administrative Service Officer

Valentina Redhorse, Administrative Assistant

Rachel Toledo, Senior Office Specialist

Lisa Armenta, Office Aide

Navajo Division of Social Services Departments & Program Managers

Antoinette Miller, Department Manager

Department for Self Reliance

Deannah Neswood-Gishey, Department Manager

Department of Child Care Development

Eric Gale, Department Manager

Department of Family Services

Crescentia Tso, Program Manager

Navajo Indian Child Welfare Program

Tauve Begaye, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist

Financial Assistance Unit

Anthony Begay, Program Manager

Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families

Freida White, Program Manager

Developmental Disabilities Program & Arizona Long Term Care Services

Planning Committee Members

Lead Planner

Valentina Redhorse, Administrative Assistant
Office of Executive Director
Navajo Division of Social Services

Toni Etsitty, Public Information Officer
Rivas Ramone, Laborer
Department for Self Reliance

Melody Roanhorse, Administrative Assistant
Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act

Cyrus Davis, Planner/Estimator
Beverly Wauneka, Senior Office Specialist
Department of Child Care Development

Freida White, Program Manager
Development Disabilities Program & Arizona
Long Term Care Services

Lupita Spencer, Office Specialist
Arizona Long Term Care Services

Evangeline Smith, Office Specialist
Christopher Weaver, Office Specialist
Department of Family Services

Sylvanna Wilson, Senior Caseworker
Financial Assistance Unit

RaNaye Badonie, Administrative Services Officer
Joseph Sandoval, Community Involvement Specialist
Navajo Treatment Center for Children and Their Families

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Mary Descheeny-Reyna, Sr. Programs & Projects Specialist

Calvert Curley, Senior Programs & Projects Specialist

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Rachel Toledo, Senior Office Specialist

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Office of Executive Director
Navajo Division of Social Services



Yideesk'áądi Nitsáhákees niha' áłchíní bá **One Voice, One Vision, One Team**

Navajo Division of Social Services
High-Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Ave. Flagstaff, Arizona
December 18, 2023 - December 20, 2023

Monday, December 18, 2023: Winter Symposium Day One

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM **Staff Travel**

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM **Registration / Sign-in, Registration Desk**

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM **Holiday Banquet, The Peaks Ballroom**

Mistress of Ceremony

*Freida White, Program Manager I
Developmental Disabilities Program*

Posting of Colors

*Diné Sáanii Siláoltsooi Color Guard
Fort Defiance, Arizona*

Blessing Prayer

Lola Bahe, Elder

Welcome Address

*Thomas Cody, Executive Director
Navajo Division of Social Services*

Keynote Speaker

*David Lujan, Chief Executive Officer and EDD
Arizona Department of Child Safety*

Dinner Served

Keynote Speaker

*"Title of Presentation"
Amy N. Reeves-Begaye, Miss Navajo Nation
Office of Miss Navajo*

Keynote Speaker

*Dr. Buu Nygren, President
THE NAVAJO NATION*

Healing Dance

Corn Fields Yei Bi Chei Dancers

Closing Remarks

*Honorable Germaine Simonson, Vice-Chair
Health, Education & Human Services Committee
25th Navajo Nation Council*

Tuesday, December 19, 2023: Winter Symposium Day Two

7:30 - 8:00 am BREAKFAST Sponsored by Eaglesun Systems Inc.

Registration / Sign In - Registration Desk

8:00 am Opening General Session, The Peaks Ballroom

Mistress of Ceremony

*Freida White, Program Manager I
Developmental Disabilities Program*

Opening Blessing and Song

Alfred Tsosie, Leupp Community Member

National Anthem

Aariyanna K. Austin

Welcome Address

*Marlinda Littleman, Deputy Division Director
Navajo Division of Social Services*

8:30 am - 9:00 am Navajo Nation Guest Speakers

9:00 am - 9:30 am "One Voice, One Vision, One Team" - Division Initiative

Thomas Cody, Executive Director

Marlinda Littleman, Deputy Division Director

Delilah Goodluck, Communications Manager

Navajo Division of Social Services

9:30 am - 10:00 am NDSS Department and Program Managers Brief Overview Presentation

Department of Family Services

Department for Self Reliance

Department for Child Care & Development

Eric Gale, Department Manager (DM) III

Antionette Miller, DM III

Deannah Neswood-Gishey, DM III

10:00 am Break

10:15 am NDSS Department and Program Managers Brief Overview Presentation

Developmental Disability Program

Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Their Families

Navajo Indian Child Welfare Act Program

Navajo Financial Assistance Unit

Freida White, Program Manager I

Anthony Begay, Program Manager II

Crescentia Tso, Program Manager II

Tauve Begaye, Sr. Programs & Projects Spec.

11:00 am - 11:45 pm The Grassroots People Guide the Work: It is Continuous Quality Improvement

Melissa Clyde, Senior Director, Indian Child Welfare Act

Paul Buehler, Managing Director, Community Engagement

Casey Family Programs

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
ABINEAU THEATER	FREMONT THEATER	HUMPHREYS DOYLE	KENDRICK THEATRE	MCMILLAN THEATRE	O'LEARY THEATRE
First Things First - Early Childhood Resources for Professionals, Families, and the Community	Anti-Human Trafficking	Outreach 101	Missing, Murdered Diné Relatives	Northern Arizona University Native American Program Services	Arizona Public Services: Energy Support, Safety Net, and APS Solar Communities
presented by: First Things First Regional Staff: Memarie Tsosie, Regional Director Marlo McCabe, Community Engagement Coordinator Rodina Jordan-Dahozy & Sharrisa Ben, Program Coordination Specialist	presented by: Rachell Lumppp, Arizona Office of Attorney General	presented by: Toni Etsitty, Public Information Officer, Department for Self Reliance Jacinda Begay, Outreach Coordinator, Utah State University	presented by: Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, Legislative Staff Assistant, Navajo Nation Office of the Speaker	presented by: Kiara Weathersby, Director	presented by: Nonie BlackElk, Energy Innovation Analyst, APS
moderated by: Beverly	moderated by: Mary	moderated by: Cal	moderated by: Evangeline	moderated by: Chelmarie	moderated by: Sylvanna

2:00 PM - 2:05 pm

2:05 PM - 3:05 PM

SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
ABINEAU THEATER	FREMONT THEATER	HUMPHREYS DOYLE	KENDRICK THEATRE	MCMILLAN THEATRE	O'LEARY THEATRE
First Things First - Early Childhood Resources for Professionals, Families and the Community	Anti-Human Trafficking	Outreach 101	Missing, Murdered Diné Relatives	Boarding School Report Combatting Historical Trauma	Arizona Public Services: Energy Support, Safety Net, and APS Solar Communities
presented by: First Things First Regional Staff: Memarie Tsosie, Regional Director Marlo McCabe, Community Engagement Coordinator Rodina Jordan-Dahozy & Sharrisa Ben, Program Coordination Specialist	presented by: Rachell Lumppp, Arizona Office of Attorney General	presented by: Toni Etsitty, Public Information Officer, Department for Self Reliance Jacinda Begay, Outreach Coordinator, Utah State University	presented by: Sonlatsa Jim-Martin, Legislative Staff Assistant, NN Office of the Speaker	presented by: Kiara Weathersby, Director of the NAU Native American Cultural Center	presented by: Nonie BlackElk, Energy Innovation Analyst, APS
moderated by: Lupita	moderated by: Joseph	moderated by: Valentina	moderated by: Christopher	moderated by: Lisa	moderated by: Chelmarie

Wednesday, December 20, 2023: Winter Symposium Day Three

7:30 - 8:00 am **BREAKFAST** **Provided**

Registration / Sign In - Registration Desk

8:00 am - 11:30 am **Break Out Sessions**

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM					
SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
ABINEAU	FREMONT THEATER	HUMPHREYS DOYLE	KENDRICK THEATRE	MCMILLAN THEATRE	O'LEARY THEATRE
Staff Development & Training	Safety of Building & Physical Premises	Operation Rainbow Bridge	Navajo Division of Social Services Branding	Tribal Assistance System (TAS)	Envision, Redistrict
presented by: Richard Bates, Navajo Occupational Safety & Health Administration	presented by: Mary Descheeny-Reyna, SPPS NDSS OED	presented by: Delilah Goodluck, SPPS, NDSS OED	presented by: Chris Wright, Technical Director, Eaglesun Systems, Inc.	presented by: Supervisor Judy Begay	presented by: Supervisor Judy Begay
moderated by: Beverly	moderated by: Cal	moderated by: Lisa	moderated by: Evangeline	moderated by: Chelmarie	moderated by: Lupita

9:00 - 9:15 am **BREAK, Main Foyer - Refreshments Provided**

9:15 AM - 10:15 AM					
SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
ABINEAU	FREMONT THEATER	HUMPHREYS DOYLE	KENDRICK THEATRE	MCMILLAN THEATRE	O'LEARY THEATRE
Early Childhood Development - Developmental Sensory Screening Opportunity for Young Children	Alchina Bi Behazani Act (ABBA)	Opioid	Intersection of Missing, Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) & Child Welfare	Diné Action Plan	Winter Stories and Traditional Games
presented by: Kim Kee, Program Coordinator, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH; Amanda Williams, Developmental Specialist, Navajo Project I-LAUNCH	presented by: Cornelia Yazzie, Prosecutor	presented by: Bert Houston, Case Management Specialist, Navajo Division of Behavioral & Mental Health Services	presented by: Christopher Sharp, M.S.W., M.P.A., Director & Clinical Assistant Professor Office of American Indian Projects, School of Social Work, Arizona State University	presented by: Marlinda Littleman & DAP Advisory Members	presented by: Hozho'go lina 365, Utah Navajo Health Systems
moderated by: Lupita	moderated by: Sylvanna	moderated by: Joseph	moderated by: Evangeline	moderated by: Val	moderated by: Cyrus

11:45 AM – 3:00 PM Closing General Session, The Peaks Ballroom

Master of Ceremony

*Joseph Sandoval, Community Involvement Specialist
Navajo Treatment Center for Children & Their Families*

11:45 PM – 12:15 PM Lunch, The Peaks Ballroom

Sponsored by Utah Navajo Health System, Inc.

12:15 PM – 12:45 PM Guest Speaker:

*Todd Francis, Chief Financial Officer,
Native Community Capital*

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Christmas Music Carols - Staff

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM Closing Ceremony

Closing Remarks

*Honorable Dr. Andy Nez, Member
Health, Education & Human Services Committee Member
25th Navajo Nation Council*

*Thomas Cody, Executive Director
Navajo Division of Social Services*

Closing Prayer

*Michael Saunders, Self Reliance Field Site Manager
Department for Self Reliance*

Retrieving of Colors

*Diné Sáanii Siláoltsooí Color Guard
Fort Defiance, Arizona*

3:30 PM Adjournment

Thank you for attending and have a safe trip home!



Paul Buehler

Paul Buehler, LCSW graduated from the University of Southern California with his master's degree in social work and began a 17-year career with Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services. During his tenure with Los Angeles County, Paul served as a line social worker, supervisor, assistant regional administrator and regional administrator, leaving the Department in 2007 as the Department's risk management division chief. Paul worked in all areas of child welfare practice from emergency response to adoptions. His ability to create partnerships within the communities he served supported the development of community-based services for children and families which helped children stay safely with their own families and in their communities. He came to Casey Family Programs in September of 2007 as a Director of Strategic Consulting, working to develop this same level of partnerships in Nevada, South Carolina, and Michigan. Paul was subsequently promoted to Managing Director of Community Engagement with Casey Family Programs. His ability to develop effective partnerships to protect children and strengthen families was acknowledged by former LA County Directors through employee recognition awards and board proclamations. In addition to his work with Casey Family Programs, Paul is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers and has earned his credential as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of New York.



Melissa Clyde

Melissa currently works for Casey Family Programs as Senior Director in Indian Child Welfare Programs. Melissa is from Tohatchi, New Mexico. She currently resides in Denver, Colorado. Melissa has a Master's in Social Work from Washington University in St. Louis. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Arizona. Melissa volunteers outside of work and on her own time by serving on the local school district's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force and BluePrint Task Force. She also volunteers on her own time by serving on the Women & Girls of Color Fund Advisory Council for the Women's Foundation of Colorado. Her professional experience includes providing coaching, training and technical assistance on culturally-appropriate system change efforts, community development, child welfare services, the Indian Child Welfare Act and various topics to support capacity building in tribal and state child welfare systems to reduce the need for foster care. Melissa is invested in educating and supporting elected tribal leaders to be informed about American Indian and Alaska Native children's issues.

During the summer of 2011, Melissa represented the Indigenous Peoples of North America at the United Nation Indigenous Fellowship Programme in Geneva.





Todd Francis

TODD FRANCIS in his current position as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer with Native Community Capital (NCC) headquartered in Laguna, New Mexico. NCC is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) and a licensed mortgage bank approved residential lender in Arizona and New Mexico. They are professionals who are passionate about Building Tribal Economies and have an intimate knowledge of Tribal communities as well as public and private sector financing. Mr. Francis' senior management experience includes positions with small and medium-size companies (for-profit and nonprofit). In his most recent senior management roles as the CFO and COO with Trellis, Inc. (formerly Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix), a nonprofit, Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), he oversaw a staff that was responsible for delivering services to residents throughout Maricopa County, AZ (4.3 million residents) under four lines of business – residential mortgage lending, residential real estate development, homebuyer counseling/education programs, and homeowner foreclosure prevention programs. Trellis provided services to low-to-moderate income families. Prior to his work in the CDFI industry, Mr. Francis worked in private industry providing healthcare services, importing and selling natural rubber, and selling national printshop franchise licenses. Todd is originally from Chinle, Arizona and is an enrolled member of the Navajo Tribe. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona with an undergraduate degree as well as graduate coursework in Business Administration and Accounting.



David Lujan

David Lujan was appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Child Safety by Governor Katie Hobbs in April 2023.

David brings over two decades of child welfare advocacy experience to the Department.

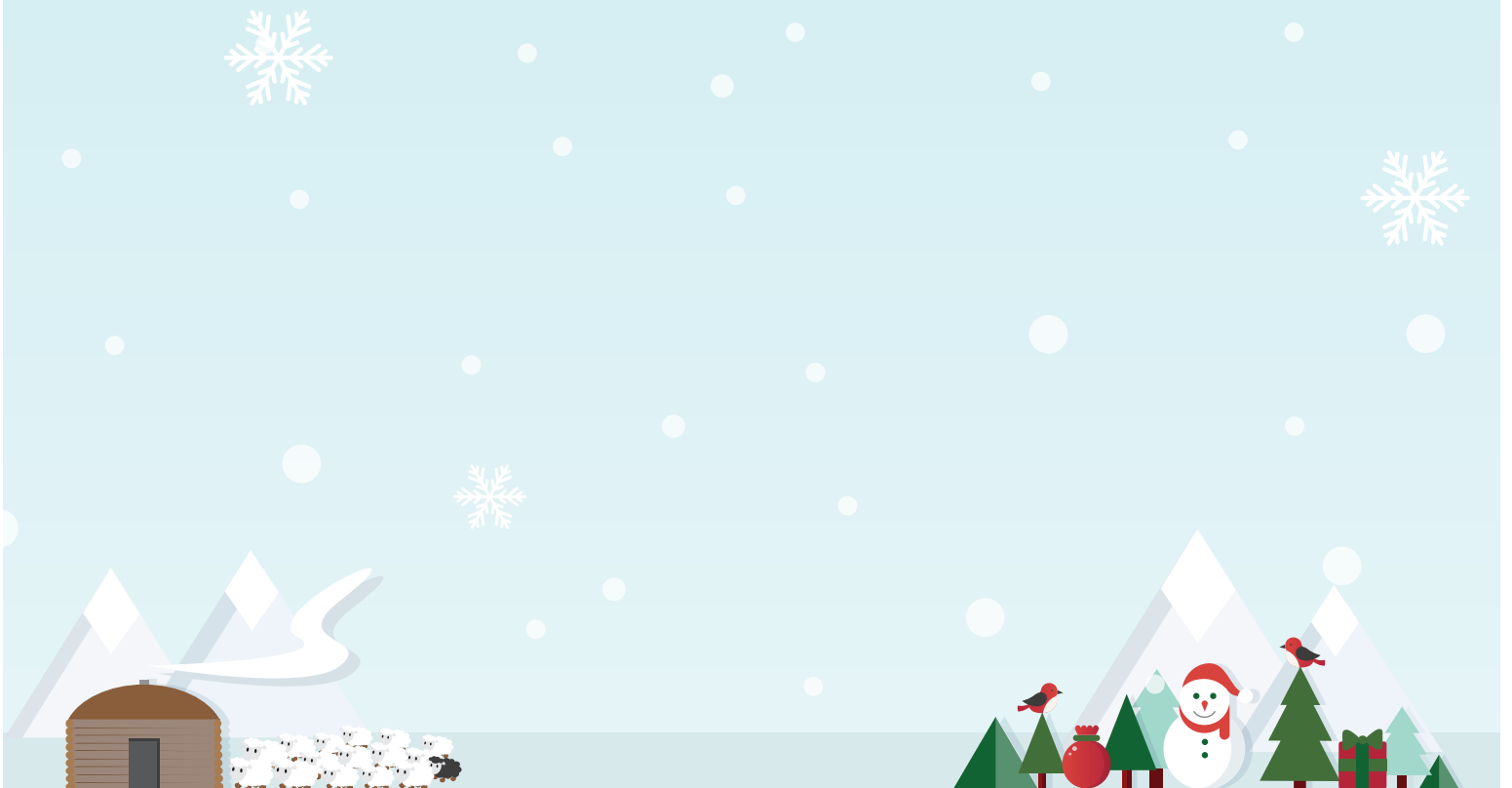
David began his career as an attorney for the Arizona State Senate after graduating from Arizona State University with a Juris Doctor degree.

He decided to run for elected office in 2004 and served as a state representative from 2004 to 2010 and as a state senator from 2011 to 2013. During this time, David helped launch Defenders of Children, a non-profit organization that provides free legal representation to abused children and adult victims of domestic violence. As staff attorney for the organization, he worked with Arizona's and Utah's attorney generals to open the first non-profit in Colorado City to provide legal services to victims of child abuse.

After leaving Defenders of Children, David served as the Chief Administrator for ASU's Preparatory Academy, and later, as the National Director of Public Policy for Reading Partners, a non-profit organization dedicated to early childhood literacy.

In 2017, David helped found the Arizona Center for Economic Progress, where he developed many aspects of the organization's structure and branding, including clarifying the relationship between Children's Action Alliance and the AZ Center.

He became President and CEO of Children's Action Alliance in November 2020. Under his leadership, the organization achieved a significant number of policy priorities, including increased stipends for kinship foster care providers; expanding access to health coverage for youth transitioning out of foster care; and \$800 million in new annual funding for public education.

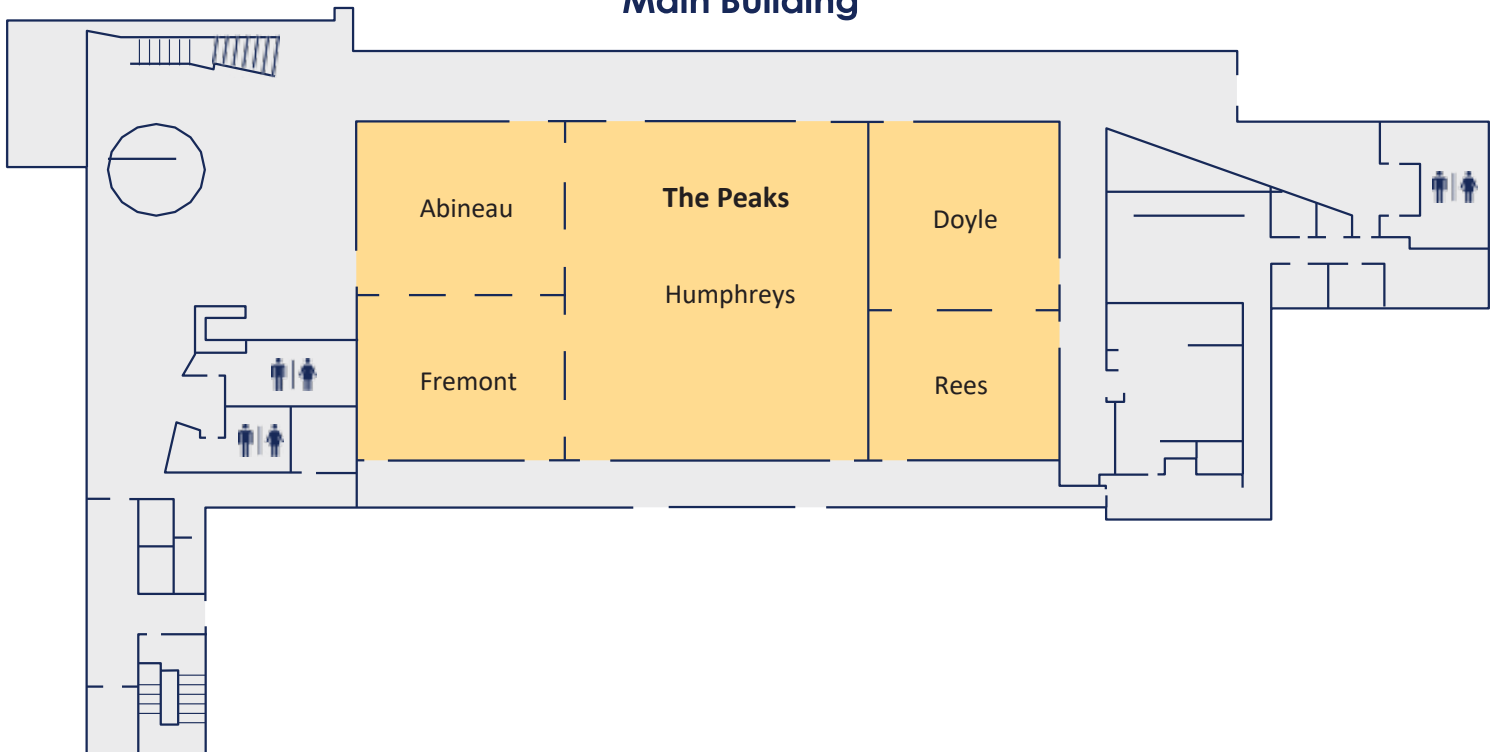




NAU HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER

Room Name	Square Feet	Theater	Bqt./Ergo	Conference Square Bqt./Ergo	U-Shape	Bqt. 8
The Peaks Ballroom	10,480	1,000	486/324	N/A	N/A	624
Abineau	1,720	100	75/50	42/28	32/22	80
Fremont	1,560	100	75/50	42/28	30/20	80
Humphreys	4,400	350	216/144	N/A	N/A	280
Doyle	1,500	75	60/40	36/24	33/22	70
Rees	1,300	75	60/40	36/24	33/22	70

Main Building

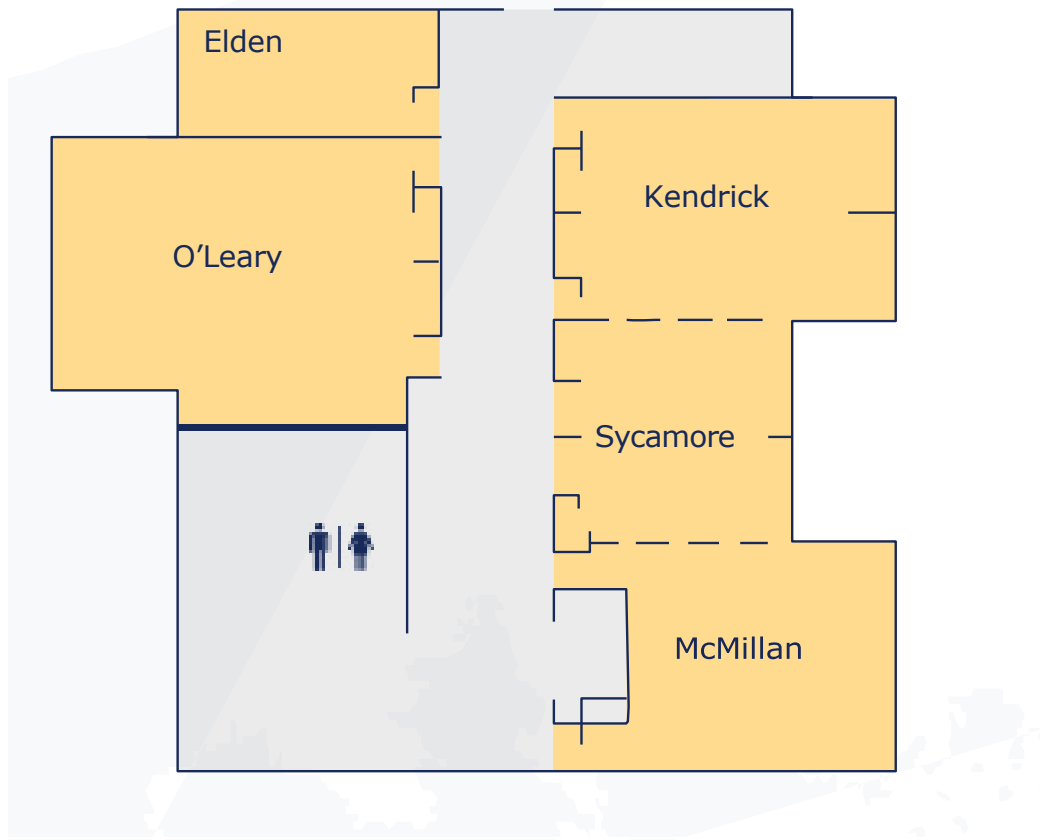




HIGH COUNTRY CONFERENCE CENTER

Room Name	Square Feet	Theater	Bqt./Ergo	Conference Square Bqt./Ergo	U-Shape	Bqt. 8
Drury McMillan	847	40	27/18	24/16	18/12	40
Drury Sycamore	615	30	18/12	18/12	12/8	32
Drury O'Leary	946	60	36/24	30/20	24/16	56
Drury Kendrick	946	40	36/24	30/20	24/16	48
Drury Elden Boardroom	300	Boardroom for 14				

Drury Hotel





Ugly Sweater Contest

Navajo Division of Social Services Winter Symposium

Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Contest Time: 12:00–12:45pm

High Country Conference Center Flagstaff, AZ

Sweater Categories:

- ❄️ **Most Funniest/Ugliest**
- ❄️ **Best DIY**
- ❄️ **Most Festive**
- ❄️ **Most Sparkle**

Prizes awarded for each sweater categories!

To participate in the ugly sweater contest, contestants may either create their own unique sweaters or purchase them from a store. In order to win, participants must ensure that their sweaters are as creative, festive, funny, and/or ugly as possible. Participants are required to wear the sweater and will then be judged by a panel of judges.

**Let's embrace the festive silliness.
Come and show your creative mindset.**

❄️ **Good Luck and Have Fun** ❄️

A Friendly Reminder: Please be respectful to others as this is a professional environment please refrain from using any offensive language and graphics.



All guests of the Conference Center, Hotel, and Restaurant receive validation for free parking in the parking garage from any of the reception desks.

Butler Avenue

Milton Road

Humphreys Street

Beaver Street

Dupont Avenue

High Country
Conference Center

loading dock

parking garage

Drury
Hotel

Prochnow
Auditorium

1899

Potter's
Square